

LOSE YOUR LAWN AND IMPROVE YOUR SOIL WITH SHEET MULCHING

Sheet mulching is a way to eliminate your water-thirsty lawn which involves covering the lawn with cardboard or newspaper and then covering that with mulch. This combination suppresses grass and weeds, and over time biodegrades into healthy soil. Then, replant the area with drought-tolerant and native plants for a beautiful water-conserving garden!

Sheet mulching can be done year-round, but it is best to start in the fall so that your new plants can benefit from winter rains.

STEPS FOR SHEET MULCHING:

- 1. Prepare the site**
 - Remove undesirable and invasive plants, especially those that spread through rhizomes or have very persistent roots .
 - Mow or knock down tall weeds so they lie flat.
 - Remove your sprinkler system or convert it to drip irrigation.
 - Wet down the area.
- 2. Plant Large Plants**
 - Plant trees and shrubs 5 gallons or larger.
- 3. Add a Weed Barrier**
 - Select a biodegradable weed barrier such as newspaper, cardboard, or burlap.
 - Lay material over prepared ground making sure to overlap it 6 – 8 inches so no sunlight can shine through.
 - Wet down the material with water as you go to keep it in place and start decomposition.
- 4. Layer with compost and mulch**
 - Add 1 – 2 inches of compost and 3 to 5 inches of mulch on top of your newspaper or cardboard.
- 5. Plant**
 - Add additional plants by cutting holes in the weed barrier
 - Re-mulch your new plants, making sure not to put mulch right up to the base of the plant, which may encourage rot.
- 6. Maintain your new landscape**
 - Install drip irrigation (if using)
 - Help new plants get established with carefully applied water. Even drought tolerant species need a little extra water when they are young.

For more information and resources, visit green-gardener.org

<https://green-gardener.org/lose-your-lawn-with-sheet-mulching/>



Friends of Aptos Library replaced their turf with water wise plants.

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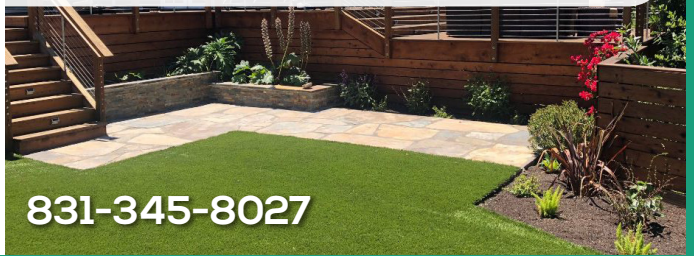


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